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Philadelphia 8th. August 1779.

My dear Sir,

I wrote you by last past when I believe I acknowledged the receipt of yours of the 10th. of July. I am sorry Mrs L. Thompson did not see the committee of Congress at Vermont however I hope every measure will be taken to support N. Hampshires claim to that Territory. N.Y. has been very quiet about that matter ever since the return of the committee but this calm will not last long. you are too well acquainted with the arts and invidious designs of certain men to need their characters from me. If the claim of N.H. is not supported that county will assuredly be annexed to N.Y. which I am sure must be attended with disagreeable consequences not only to N.H. but other Eastern States. I intended to have wrote you largely on this subject but having been several times interrupted and my head crowded with a thousand other matters I am under the necessity of deferring it for the present. our accounts from the West Indies are by no means unpleasant. I will give them to you so far as my recollection serves me from hearing Mrs Binghams letter read which came to hand yesterday.

Count D'Estaing with 25 ships of the line and 11 Frigates sailed from Martinico the 25th. of June for Granada. Admiral Byron being informed of the capture of St Vincents on his arrival at St. Lucia on the evening of the 30th. sailed the 1st of July in the morning with 13 ships of the line & 3 Frigates in order to retake it being then ignorant of the expedition against Granada. He appeared before St Vincent and demanded a surrender but a deputation of the principal inhabitants informing him of the resolution of the Caribs to carry devastation through the Island if an attack should be made & beseeching him to leave them to their destiny & at the same time he being informed of the critical situation of affairs in Granada abandoned his project and directed his course for the Island which it is not improbable might have surrendered before his arrival as the French fleet had four days start of him.

Byron took 2000 Troops with him from St Lucia whose Baggage.

were on board the transport and was destined for this Continent. From these circumstances as there is the highest probability that an action has happened indeed reports will have it so. But I hope I shall not incur the charge of infidelity for not giving into reports too readily however I did agree with the multitude so far as to allow that appearances are very favorable. Please to inform me whether the Journals of Congress which I to Lt. Gilman are come to hand. I should be sorry also be glad to know if you ever received the "Observations on the American Revolution" which I sent you in Feb. or March. I sent at the same time a number to be distributed but have never heard if any of them came to hand. I most heartily wish your Penobscot expedition may succeed nor can I see any thing against it but the delays that have taken place in preparing which may give the Enemy opportunity to get reinforcements. Should it succeed I can see no difficulty in crossing the Bay immediately & taking possession of Nova-Scotia this would be so glorious an acquisition that it would surely be worth hazarding much, for pray let me know if such a plan is in contemplation Col. Peabody informs me he has inclosed the latest News-papers. By the conclusion of your last letter you seem to expect me home shortly; I have stayed much longer than I intended or perhaps than is desired by my constituents, if the latter should be the case a very short notice will be sufficient for my departure from this place. I am extremely anxious for the determination of some important questions which ought to have been decided many months ago. This and some other matters which I shall communicate to you when I may have the pleasure of a tete a tete conversation, or some future day will account for my coming so long here & since the summer is so far spent I think to take the pleasant part of Autumn to travel in unless it should be otherwise ordered by the authority which placed me there & whose orders I shall always be happy in obeying.

I am my dear Sir most respectfully yours,

Wm Whipple.

Col. Whipple.

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Philadelphia 12th July 1779.

My dear Sir,

Since my last respects to you I have received your two favors of the 19 & 25th of June. I have not time at present to make any remarks on the plan of Government, shall therefore only say that in my humble opinion it is full of defects consequently my wishes are that it may never go down with the people.

The committee that was sent to the grants are returned that is two of them. viz. Dr Witherspoon & Mr Atlee, these were to be joined by two gentlemen from Connecticut but the Dr was in so great a hurry that he and Atlee set off the day before the others arrived, whether a report will be received from these two is uncertain not yet determined. I am happy to inform the court have determined to lay in their claim to that Territory, but I could wish that nothing had been done in the vote of Vermont being an independent state.

It gives me great pleasure that the people are sensible of the necessity of taxing. Certainly no other mode can effectually retrieve the credit of the currency. That with some other measures I trust will do it. Regulating prices by the several towns may answer a good temporary purpose till other measures have time to operate. The exertion of New-Hampshire for raising men we have ever been at least equal to any State in the Union. This has always afforded me particular satisfaction, I cannot however, help expressing a wish that the measures now adopted had engaged the attention of the Court at an earlier period.

The accounts from South Carolina fall infinitely short of the reports that first reached this place & from thence were circulated with great embellishments but I still flatter myself we shall have a good account of the Savages in that country, I must refer you to the News-papers for the situation of affairs there. One Ship with public Stores and some other vessels are arrived in Chesapeak bay from France. They sailed

in company with a fleet of 70 sail transports having from 10, to 13,000, troops on board bound for the West Indies under convoy of five ships of the line and some Frigates.
This reinforcement I should think will enable Count D. Estaing to look Byron in the face.

With great sincerity I am
Your affectionate friend
& Humble Servant
Wm. Whipple.

Col° Barlett.